

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. ~~A print server which is connected through a~~
network to an external apparatus for outputting image
data mixedly including BW (black-and-white) and color
5 data, a BW image formation apparatus for outputting BW
image data, and a color image formation apparatus for
outputting color image data, said print server
comprising:

determination means for determining one of said BW
10 image formation apparatus and said color image
formation apparatus, which has an inserter having a
sheet path not passing through a fixing unit, as a
base;

judgment means for reading the image data mixedly
15 including the BW and color data output from said
external apparatus for each page and judging whether
the page is a color page or a BW page;

transmission means for previously transmitting the
discriminated color page to said color image formation
20 apparatus to output the color page in a case where the
base determined by said determination means is said BW
image formation apparatus, and previously transmitting
the discriminated BW page to said BW image formation
apparatus to output the BW page in a case where the
25 base determined by said determination means is said
color image formation apparatus; and

instruction means for inserting the one of the BW

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~~page and the color page, set through the inserter and~~
previously output, in the base determined by said
determination means, and simultaneously instructing to
output the other of the BW page and the color page.

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2. A print server according to Claim 1, wherein
another judgment means for judging whether or not a
storage device for spooling the BW page is installed in
said BW image formation apparatus or judging whether or
not a storage device for spooling the color page is
installed in said color image formation apparatus, is
provided.

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3. A print server according to Claim 2, wherein
the BW page is transmitted to said BW image formation
apparatus in a case where the storage device is
installed in said BW image formation apparatus or the
color page is transmitted to said color image formation
apparatus in a case where the storage device is
installed in said color image formation apparatus.

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4. A print server according to Claim 2, wherein
display instruction means for displaying the page on a
display screen of said BW image formation apparatus and
a display screen of said external apparatus on the
basis of an installation state of said BW image
formation apparatus or displaying the page on a display

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screen of said color image formation apparatus and the display screen of said external apparatus on the basis of an installation state of said color image formation apparatus, is provided.

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5. A print server according to Claim 4, wherein the installation state means an installation state of the storage device.

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6. An image formation system comprising:

an external apparatus for outputting image data mixedly including BW and color data;

a BW image formation apparatus for outputting BW image data;

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a color image formation apparatus for outputting color image data; and

a print server connected through a network to said external apparatus, said BW image formation apparatus and said color image formation apparatus, and

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comprising,

determination means for determining one of said BW image formation apparatus and said color image formation apparatus, which has an inserter having a sheet path not passing through a fixing unit, as a base,

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judgment means for reading the image data mixedly including the BW and color data output from

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said external apparatus for each page and judging whether the page is a color page or a BW page,

transmission means for previously transmitting the discriminated color page to said color image formation apparatus to output the color page in a case where the base determined by said determination means is said BW image formation apparatus, and previously transmitting the discriminated BW page to said BW image formation apparatus to output the BW page in a case where the base determined by said determination means is said color image formation apparatus, and

instruction means for inserting the one of the BW page and the color page, set through the inserter and previously output, in the base determined by said determination means, and simultaneously instructing to output the other of the BW page and the color page.

7. An image formation system which has an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting a series of image data composed of plural pages containing first-kind image data and second-kind image data different from the first-kind image data to a first image formation apparatus and a second image formation apparatus in the page unit, said system comprising:

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~~control means for controlling to transmit the~~
first-kind image data to said first image formation
apparatus and transmit the second-kind image data to
said second image formation apparatus from the series
5 of image data,

wherein said control means makes transmission
timing of the first-kind image data to said first image
formation apparatus differ from transmission timing of
the second-kind image data to said second image
10 formation apparatus in accordance with a function of
said first image formation apparatus or a function of
said second image formation apparatus.

8. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the
15 function includes a first function to perform spooling
processing.

9. A system according to Claim 7, wherein said
control means makes the transmission timing of the
20 first-kind image data to said first image formation
apparatus differ from the transmission timing of the
second-kind image data to said second image formation
apparatus in accordance with the fact that which of
said first image formation apparatus and said second
25 image formation apparatus has a second function to
perform processing for feeding a previously image
formed sheet, to which image formation processing has

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not to be performed.

10. A system according to Claim 9, wherein said control means delays the transmission timing of the first-kind image data to said first image formation apparatus from the transmission timing of the second-kind image data to said second image formation apparatus in accordance with the fact that said first image formation apparatus has the second function.

11. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the information processing apparatus can input image data from a remote image processing apparatus, said control means includes display control means for selectively displaying message information to an operator on the image processing apparatus, said first image formation apparatus and said second image formation apparatus, and said control means determines that the information has to be displayed on which of the image processing apparatus, said first image formation apparatus and said second image formation apparatus in accordance with the function of said first image formation apparatus or the function of said second image formation apparatus.

12. A system according to Claim 11, wherein said controls means varies contents of the information in

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~~accordance with the function of said first image~~
formation apparatus or the function of said second
image formation apparatus.

5 13. A system according to Claim 7, wherein the
first-kind image data represents a BW image and the
second-kind image data represents a color image.

10 14. A system according to Claim 8, wherein the
first-kind image data represents a photograph image and
the second-kind image data represents a character
image.

15 15. A control method of an image formation system
which has an information processing apparatus capable
of selectively transmitting a series of image data
composed of plural pages containing first-kind image
data and second-kind image data different from the
first-kind image data to a first image formation
20 apparatus and a second image formation apparatus in the
page unit, said method comprising:

25 a control step of controlling to transmit the
first-kind image data to the first image formation
apparatus and transmit the second-kind image data to
the second image formation apparatus from the series of
image data,

wherein ~~transmission~~ timing of the first-kind

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image data to the first image formation apparatus is
made differ from transmission timing of the second-kind
image data to the second image formation apparatus in
said control step in accordance with a function of the
5 first image formation apparatus or a function of the
second image formation apparatus.

16. A storage medium which stores a computer-
readable program to cause an image formation system to
10 execute the following steps, the image formation system
having an information processing apparatus capable of
selectively transmitting a series of image data
composed of plural pages containing first-kind image
data and second-kind image data different from the
15 first-kind image data to a first image formation
apparatus and a second image formation apparatus in the
page unit, said program comprising:

a control step of controlling to transmit the
first-kind image data to the first image formation
20 apparatus and transmit the second-kind image data to
the second image formation apparatus from the series of
image data,

wherein transmission timing of the first-kind
image data to the first image formation apparatus is
25 made to differ from transmission timing of the second-
kind image data to the second image formation apparatus
in the control step in accordance with a function of

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the first image formation apparatus or a function of

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processing.

19. A system according to Claim 17, wherein said control means makes the transmission timing of the image data to said first image formation apparatus

differ from the transmission timing of the image data to the other image formation apparatuses in accordance with the fact that which of said first image formation apparatus and the other image formation apparatuses have a second function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet, to which image formation processing has not to be performed.

20. A system according to Claim 19, wherein said control means delays the transmission timing of the image data to said first image formation apparatus from the transmission timing of the image data to the other image formation apparatuses in accordance with the fact that said first image formation apparatus has the second function.

21. A control method of an image formation system which has an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting image data to plural image formation apparatuses, comprising:

a control step of controlling to transmit a part of pages to a first image formation apparatus and transmit remaining pages to image formation apparatuses other than the first image formation apparatus from a series of image data composed of plural pages, wherein transmission timing of the image data to the first image formation apparatus is made differ from

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